

Draft of the Gambling Control Board Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2009

45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Meeting opened at 12:45 p.m..

Board members present: Chairman George McHale, Cushing Samp, Richard Arnold, Peter Danton and Larry Hall.

Staff members present: Exec.Director Robert Welch, Det. Don Armstrong, Auditor Scott Woods and Secretary Kathy Chamberlain.

Legal counsel: Lara Nomani, Ass't A.G.

Minutes from 1/14/2009 meeting

Motion to accept: Cushing Samp moved to accept the minutes

Seconded: Peter Danton

Vote: 5-0

Executive Director's Report – Robert Welch

- Mr. Welch advised that last Friday (2/6/09) the freshmen Legislators (4) in the Bangor area had a tour of Hollywood Slots facility.
- In January, 2009, Bangor PD was called to the facility seven times. 89,000 people were at the facility that same month.
- Progressive Gaming will not be renewing their vendor's license. They've already paid their fee which is non-refundable.
- Responsible Gaming Week – in a collaborative with several other entities, a week in March will be proclaimed Responsible Gaming Week. This is the third annual event. A one day advertisement will be placed in the Portland Press Herald and Bangor Daily News at a cost of \$3,000. It will advise to support the Responsible Gaming Program, call 211 for help, etc.

Motion to authorize Mr. Welch to place the advertisement in the papers mentioned above and approve the \$3,000 expenditure – made by Peter Danton

Seconded: Cushing

Vote: 5-0

- Mr. Welch advised of two upcoming LDs on Gambling – LD 293 on the Maine Veteran's Cemetery being funded by the Racino and an LD concerning the Oxford County Racino again, sponsored by Rep. Sawin Millett.

Financial Update – Scott Woods

Mr. Woods addressed the board and advised that at the end of 2008, the expired tickets amount was \$9328.14. The weather does affect the net revenue, he noted. Over million dollars daily is played and over three million dollars was played last Saturday ((2/7). All 1,000 machines are up and running now. Revenues are consistent mostly with the predicted revenues of 1.5 million dollars.

Rooms at Hollywood Slots are approximately \$90/night. They are mostly booked on the weekends and 30-40% during the week.

State Police Activity Update – Det. Don Armstrong

Det. Armstrong advised the board the he was looking at a couple of incidents that had occurred at the facility. No criminal or policy violations contained in them. The Unit has received and processed 15 applications since the last meeting in January. Don reported in terms of intoxicated persons entering the facility, that the HS security does a very good job at stopping these people at the door. The concern initially of underage people getting on the game floor from the buffet is unfounded. The Security desk is manned 24 hours, no problems at all.

Unfinished Business

A. Fine/Violations Sub-Committee Report – Cushing Samp – no report at this time. A meeting is planned for Feb 27th which may be cancelled. If that meeting goes forward, the Board will be updated as to rule changes under consideration.

B. Delegation of Authority in the Gambling Control Unit – this motion has been tabled twice. Commissioner Jordan has been requested to provide information regarding the ability of State Police to oversee the Gambling Unit in Mr. Welch's absence in view of the state budgetary climate. The Commissioner was unable to attend this meeting and offer that information. Dick Arnold advised that no additional money would be required if his motion passed. Cushing Samp advised that she believed Commissioner Jordan was more concerned about stretching the State Police too far in their duties.

Motion: Dick Arnold motioned to continue action on his motion until the next meeting when the Commissioner could be present.

Seconded: Peter Danton

Vote: 4-1

New Business

The March Report to the Governor's Office is due 3/15/2009. Mr. Welch sent a proposed report to the Board prior to today's meeting. No comments or suggestions were given by the Board. Mr. Welch will submit the report.

Vote on the Basis Statement (to change Hollywood Slots' Sunday hours to 8:00 am instead of opening at noontime).

Motion made by Cushing Samp to adopt the Final Rule as written and the Basis Statements and Response to Comments as presented.

Seconded by Peter Danton

Vote: 5-0

The documents will be submitted to the Attorney General's Office for review as to form and legality prior to their submission to the Sec. of State's Office.

Public Comments – None received

Next meeting March 25, 2009 Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.